

the 30 days spent in the area, when tens of thousands of migrants were seen, no others were found, either dead or alive, in other webs. Gerhard Nikolaus, who has considerable experience of bird migration in the region, states (*in litt.*) that he has never seen a migrant, or any other bird, in a spider's web.

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New records of the Sokoke Pipit *Anthus sokokensis* from Kiono Forest Reserve, Bagamoyo District, northeastern Tanzania

During exploratory mist-netting of several Tanzanian coastal forests, two specimens of the Sokoke Pipit *Anthus sokokensis* were captured on 2 and 3 September 1989 from Kiono Forest Reserve in Bagamoyo District, northeastern Tanzania. These specimens are the first netted in Tanzania since 1938, and their capture increases the total number of known localities for this threatened species to four (Collar & Stuart, 1985). The other localities are the extensive Arabuko-Sokoke Forest in Kenya, the 10 km² of forest in the Pugu Forest Reserve near Dar es Salaam, and old records from a small and probably destroyed forest at Moa on the coast near Tanga in northeastern Tanzania.

Kiono Forest Reserve is located at approximately 6° 10S, 38° 37E. This is c.20 km to the west-southwest of the coastal town of Sadaani (= Sadani), and c.15 km due west of the Indian Ocean. The forest itself occupies around 20 km² and the majority is found on a plateau of some 300 m above sea level.

The actual ringing site was located 3.5 km along the vehicle track from Mbwebwe to Gongo, about 9 km off the main road from Miono to Sadaani. This was a spur of forest off the main plateau at around 200 m above sea level.

The tree and shrub composition of the interior of Kiono Forest Reserve is relatively uniform, with the tree species *Manilkara sulkata*, *Scorodophloeus fischeri*, *Bombax schumannianum*, *Cynometra* spp and *Erythrina sacleuxi* predominating over a shrub layer comprising around 40 species where the genera *Salacia*, *Uvaria*, *Oxanthus*, *Cynometra*, *Panicum* and *Millettia* are the dominants (Mwasumbi and Burgess, unpublished data).

Structurally the forest is quite uniform, with a canopy of 66 per cent average cover and 17.8 m average height, over a well-developed shrub layer of 60 per cent average cover and 5.7 m average height. Average half-sight readings of the shrub layer were 11.2 m at 2.1 m, 10.9 m at 1.5 m and 12.0 m at 0.2 m. The ground was typically sparsely vegetated (average 15 per cent vegetation cover), and had a thick litter layer with much rotting wood and abundant terrestrial invertebrates.

Because of the isolation of this forest there has been relatively little human disturbance—and this is largely confined to clearings around villages and some selective logging of valuable timber trees within the forest.

Biometric data on the two Sokoke Pipit specimens captured are: weight 12.8 and 15.6 g; wing-length 65 and 68 mm; bill-length 13 and 15 mm; tarsus-length 14 and 18 mm; tail-length 48 and 54 mm. These measurements and the plumage markings were in agreement with other descriptions of the species. Photographs of the first specimen are deposited in the *Red Data Book* files at the ICBP in Cambridge, and with Neil Baker in Tanzania.

These two records add greatly to our knowledge of this species in Tanzania and indicate

that further work on those Tanzanian coastal forests which remain largely unstudied may provide additional localities for this, and possibly other critical species.

This investigation formed part of the ongoing ornithological survey of Tanzanian coastal forests initiated by Neil and Liz Baker of the Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania and the International Council for Bird Preservation (ICBP). The project work was also supported by the Frontier-Tanzania expedition TZ01 of the Society for Environmental Exploration, London.

Reference

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Further records of the Sokoke Pipit *Anthus sokokensis* from Tanzania

Burgess, Cutts & Huxham (1991) record the capture and ringing of two Sokoke Pipits *Anthus sokokensis* in Kiono Forest Reserve north of Dar es Salaam on 2 and 3 September 1989. In their account they note that these are the first captures of the species in Tanzania since 1938 (Pugu Hills: Collar & Stuart 1985). Collar & Stuart (1985) mention two later sight records from Tanzania: two west of the Pugu Hills in 1955 and "an adult and grown young bird" in the Pugu Hills in May 1981.

On 16 November 1989 I twice saw two Sokoke Pipits in a small patch of forest at Vikinda Forest Reserve (6°59S, 39°17E) 17 km south of Dar es Salaam. The birds were first flushed from the ground at 08:00 hrs; one disappeared into the lower branches of trees and the other hit one of my mist nets where it stayed for 2 s before flying to perch on a log 10 m away, remaining there for 30 s giving me time to note its plumage characters. A full description, which has been accepted by K.M. Howell and N.E. Baker, is lodged with the Editor. I saw the birds again at 17:00 hrs and was able to watch them for 5 min at close range. The next day, in the same area, I saw them fly off in different directions.

The habitat in which these birds were seen was a patch of forest with a very sparse shrub layer and almost no undergrowth. Canopy cover was about 60–90 per cent. The upper canopy height was about 15 m and *Azelia cuanzensis* and *Baphia* sp. were two of the trees growing on the clay and sandy soil in the area.

At about 10:00 hrs on 3 March 1990 I saw a Sokoke Pipit in Kiono Forest (6°10S, 38°37E) and watched it for 5 min at a range of 4 m feeding on the ground.

The Sokoke Pipit must be rare in both these forest areas. I have mist netted birds for considerable periods in both and the above are my only records for the species.